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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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25 YEAR  
RE-REVIEW

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## SOVIET MORALE, SECURITY AND PROPAGANDA

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## SOVIET INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND MORALE MATTERS 1

## A. MORALE FACTORS

1. Dependents of Soviet Personnel Living in Germany

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During the summer of 1954, the CO of the 3d Platoon, 2d Co, 93d Sep Security Bn, [redacted]

[redacted] was receiving [redacted] extra money because his wife was living with him in East Germany. Since the officer's wife did not work, [redacted] current Soviet Military policy encouraged wives of Soviet officers to join their husbands in Germany. [redacted]

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[redacted] single officers were rotated to the USSR after three years in East Germany unless they were proficient in the German language. However, married officers whose wives were living with them in Germany [redacted] remained there indefinitely. [redacted]

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2. Leaves

[redacted] officers and re-enlistees (sverkhsrochniki) were authorized leaves every year. [redacted] the length of such leaves. [redacted] were for about one month a year. Other EM were only authorized compassionate leaves, which were also granted to officers and career NCO's when applicable. [redacted]

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[redacted] in the 2d Co, 93d Sep Security Bn, from Oct 52 to Nov 54, at least ten individuals, including a lieutenant platoon leader as well as several NCO's and privates, returned to the USSR on compassionate leaves. These soldiers would receive ten days exclusive of travel time. [redacted]

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[redacted] received compassionate leaves for the death of either parent or "because their house burnt down". The family in the USSR obtained an affidavit from the hospital or from the doctor to the effect that either parent had died. This affidavit was verified and certified by the local Voenkomat and sent to the soldier in Germany. The soldier then applied for compassionate leave through his immediate CO, who would send the application up through channels. [redacted]

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[redacted] it took about two to three months to obtain it. [redacted] soldiers were supposed to receive leaves for superior performance of their duties, but [redacted] no cases where such meritorious leaves were actually granted [redacted]

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[redacted] there were not actual complaints against the leave system, but the conscripts often inquired from the officers why they were not granted leaves. The officers replied that in the case of Soviet enlisted personnel only meritorious leaves were provided for by regulations, and those could only be obtained as a reward for outstanding performance of duty. [redacted]

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3. Discipline

[redacted] discipline [redacted] was bad. For instance, 25X1 soldiers did not salute their officers, and in the end the officers no longer tried to make them salute. In Oct 54, two sergeants, both squad leaders, went without permission to SCHAFHAUSEN (5034N-1010E) to buy vodka. When they returned to the company, the CO reprimanded them, but the two conscript sergeants simply talked back, insulted the first sergeant (a career NCO), told him that he had reenlisted merely to eat better meals ("to eat macaroni", as they put it) and even refused to follow the CO into his office. Other soldiers witnessed the altercation. The two sergeants were not punished, but their imminent departure from the company for demobilization was arbitrarily delayed about 10 days by the CO as a sort of mild punishment.

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[redacted] there was almost always at least one member of [redacted] company in the battalion guardhouse located at 93d Battalion Headquarters in MEININGEN (5033N-1025E). Occasionally [redacted] company would even be represented by two of its soldiers in the guardhouse at one time. In Aug 54, two soldiers [redacted] returned from the guardhouse and reported, among other items of news and gossip, that there had been about 15 soldiers from the various subordinate units of the battalion together with them in the guardhouse.

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Once [redacted] a sergeant (Assistant Platoon leader) and a private were sentenced to 10 days in the guardhouse. They both returned [redacted] after three days, reporting that all prisoners had been turned loose because of some impending inspection [redacted]. The private subsequently returned to serve out his sentence in the guardhouse, but the sergeant did not. [redacted] the private had stolen eggs and flour from a German farmer.

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[redacted] witnessed the following incident. Two battalion officers had apparently accused a sergeant of being drunk in the battalion headquarters area. The sergeant argued the point; and the officers called the CQ on duty, also a sergeant, and ordered him to tie the offending sergeant's hands and take him to the guardhouse. The CQ refused. The two officers then summoned two other soldiers and ordered them to do the same thing they had asked the CQ to do, but the soldiers also refused to obey. As a result, all four EM ended up in the guardhouse [redacted].

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The sergeant who had been accused of being drunk refused to be in one cell with the privates, so the four privates were moved to another cell with the other sergeant (the CQ), who did not object to staying in the same cell with them. The other three sergeants remained together in a second room. The following day, the two sergeants and the two privates that were involved in the dispute with the two officers were again released.

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There was a great deal of drunkenness [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] all soldiers [redacted] drank and there was one case of drunkenness just about every day. The only source of alcoholic beverages was the German population, but in spite of the rules against fraternization, these purchases were constant. One private [redacted] was sentenced to over 70 days 25X1 in the guardhouse over a one-year period, at different times and all for 25X1 drunkenness. At one time he was sentenced to the guardhouse three consecutive times, because each time upon leaving the guardhouse, he had immediately gone out and become drunk again.

In Mar 54, [redacted], a lieutenant, was also restricted to quarters [redacted] 25X1

In the fall of 1953, [redacted] CO and a sergeant, (assistant platoon) in the company went to MEININGEN and somehow got drunk together there. They fought together, but nothing further happened. The sergeant involved merely told the story to the soldiers [redacted] Once in 1954, [redacted] went on patrol [redacted] As they left for their patrol 25X1 duty, they observed one of their officers, [redacted] com- 25X1 pletely drunk and staggering along the road. When they returned from that same patrol, they saw their first sergeant lying dead drunk along a fence on the road, practically in the gutter.

#### 4. Venereal Disease

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[redacted] In either Jul or Aug 54, a private, one of the drivers in the 2d Co, 93d Sep Security Bn, contracted gonorrhea. [redacted] the pri-

private in question drove the Willys jeep for the company officers and therefore had many opportunities to fraternize with German girls. The driver was sent 25X1 to the Soviet hospital in ERFURT where there was a venereal disease ward. 3 Upon his release from the hospital, this private was reassigned to the 1st Co, 93d Sep Security Bn. 2

#### 5. Disobedience of Orders

[redacted] there were frequent incidents of disobedience and insubordination [redacted] one case where the first sergeant ordered a private who had just returned from border patrol 25X1 duty to report for a cleaning detail. The private refused because he wanted to eat first, as was the custom. The first sergeant reprimanded him for his insubordination and then called the CO in the face of the private's continuing refusal to obey. Eventually this private was compelled to perform the work detail and wash out the latrine besides; his head was also shaven in punishment.

Shaving soldiers' heads was a form of punishment frequently used [redacted] especially for soldiers in their third year of compulsory 25X1 service, since they were not allowed to let their hair grow anyway during the first two years. Once, [redacted] in this connection, the first sergeant 25X1 of the 1st Co, 93d Sep Security Bn tried to shave a soldier's head by force. The latter offered much resistance, and in the resulting scuffle the soldier's head was knocked against a wall and broken. Inasmuch as the CO of the 1st Co 25X1 happened to be at battalion headquarters in MEININGEN at that time, the first sergeant called him on the phone for further instructions.

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6. Factors Affecting Unit Morale

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a. Stringency of Duty Compared with Other Units

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EM [ ] openly resented the fact that officers were authorized leaves, were free to fraternize with Germans, had their families with them, and had generally more freedom than soldiers.

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b. Inadequate PX Supplies

[ ] one incident of lowered morale because of inadequate PX supplies. [ ] a mobile PX from Battalion Headquarters. [ ] sold among other items inexpensive East German rugs very popular with the soldiers. Once in 1954, the PX arrived and had three of these rugs for sale, and many of the soldiers [ ] were anxious to purchase them. The CO's wife came and with a vicious look at the soldiers told them that she wanted a rug, that she had only recently arrived in Germany and therefore had had little opportunity to acquire such a rug, while the other soldiers had been able to buy them for a long time. She ended up with one of the rugs. A lieutenant [ ] bought the second one and the third one went to a soldier. The soldiers subsequently complained to the CO by asking him why the PX could not stock more of these rugs, not referring to the fact that his wife had used her position to obtain preferential treatment. Incidents of this type [ ] considerably lowered morale.

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c. Promotion Policies

[ ] promotion policy did not cause dissatisfaction among EM [ ] to any great extent, although in some very rare instances one soldier might have felt that he deserved a promotion to PFC or Junior Sergeant more than another. [ ]

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7. Propaganda Against Defection

All [ ] officers, the company CO, the political officer and the platoon CO, often told soldiers [ ] that if they ran away to the West, they would fall into the hands of the Americans. Following that, they said, deserters would at first be well treated by the Americans: they would be given girls, they would be questioned, and every effort would be made to obtain as much information as possible from them. They would be forced at the point of a pistol to make anti-Soviet propaganda broadcasts. After that, either they would be returned to the Soviets or Soviet intelligence agents operating in the West would "tear their heads off". The officers even said that there had been a case where unidentified Soviet intelligence agents had torn the head off a Soviet defector named MAKAROV and thrown it back over the border into East Germany inside a small canvas bag to prove they had "destroyed the deserter". [ ]

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## B. FRATERNIZATION

[redacted] until about the beginning of the summer of 1953, neither officers nor EM [redacted] were allowed to fraternize with the Germans. The only exception was that once in a while the CO [redacted] would allow a 25X1 soldier, escorted by a sergeant, to visit a German store in order to purchase some necessary personal item.

Subsequently, toward the beginning of the summer of 1953, [redacted] unit was officially told by the CO about an order from Marshal BULGANIN, then Soviet 25X1 Minister of Defense, that provided for more freedom of movement for Soviet EM. [redacted] read about this order in Soviet army newspapers [redacted] in this order. After it was issued, soldiers would occasionally be taken in 25X1 groups to see German movies in a German theatre in SCHAFHAUSEN during regular showings. Soldiers were still not allowed to go alone to such German places as restaurants, and inns. However, some of the soldiers [redacted] 25X1 started to sneak away from the rest of the movie-going group and began drinking, so that eventually these movie visits were discontinued in 1954. Although as previously mentioned, BULGANIN's order did not pertain to officers, the latter, from then on, were officially allowed to visit German inns and to fraternize with Germans, especially on weekends. This practice had previously existed with the tacit consent of their superiors. The new official permission was openly and freely used by battalion officers.

As a result of the incidents mentioned above, EM [redacted] 25X1 only had contact with the Germans during duty hours and in the official performance of duty, despite the wording of Marshal BULGANIN's order. However, they also used this duty time for unlawful types of fraternization whenever they could. If the unit officers found out about this, they would punish the guilty soldiers.

[redacted] there were rare 25X1 instances where a German border policeman turned in a Soviet soldier to his CO for dealing with other Germans.

## C. SECURITY

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2. Foreign Nationals

[redacted] employed no German nationals. 25X1

[redacted] the 93d Sep Security Bn employed Germans besides the two  
 Germans who operated the mobile PX. 25X1 In addition, [redacted] two  
 German women working in the PX of the 117th Inf Regt in  
 MEININGEN. 8 In addition to the two employees of the mobile PX 25X1  
 [redacted] the following Germans also entered from time to time: electrical 25X1  
 workers, who repaired electrical wires; [redacted] German Border Police, 25X1  
 who came to use the company firing range and to see Russian movies in the  
 company messhall; and a woman [redacted] who worked in  
 a Konsum store in SCHAFHAUSEN and who twice came to [redacted] to see the 25X1  
 movies. This woman could not speak Russian but understood it a little.  
 [redacted] she had been invited by the wives of some [redacted] officers

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The Germans entering the caserne area had no special identification;  
 they were known either to the CO, to other officers, to the CQ or to the  
 wives of officers. No Germans lived in the 2d Co area itself. [redacted]  
 another woman, who apparently was of Russian origin since she spoke Russian, 25X1  
 and who used to come with the Company CO's permission and collect scraps of  
 food from the kitchen. In exchange for this she washed the cook's white  
 uniform.

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5. Censorship

[redacted] there was  
 censorship of both incoming and outgoing mail. 25X1

[redacted]  
 [redacted] there was less censorship after the spring  
 of 1954, but [redacted] it was not completely discontinued. 9

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[redacted] officers often told the EM not to complain and  
 to say everything was fine when they wrote home.

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[redacted] once a [redacted] soldier [redacted] had written home and asked his family to obtain a false affidavit from a doctor, so as to enable him to get a compassionate leave. The letter was apparently intercepted, because the soldier was publicly reprimanded [redacted]

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## 6. Restrictions on Photography

### a. For EM

[redacted] only two soldiers [redacted] had cameras, one being a sergeant who was an assistant platoon leader and the other a PFC who was an acting squad leader. They both bought cameras toward the end of 1953. At first they took pictures freely, but in the spring of 1954, a battalion order forbade the use of cameras and taking of pictures. Then [redacted] all cameras had to be handed in to the first sergeant for safekeeping. They would be returned to soldiers upon their demobilization. Any camera not turned in and found on a soldier would be confiscated.

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### b. For Officers

However, officers were still allowed to possess cameras and to use them, although [redacted] only one of the officers [redacted] had a camera. Officers used this camera for taking pictures of other officers and of soldiers and developed the film themselves, although, [redacted] they were not experts and were just learning how to do it.

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## 7. Kommandaturas and Kommandatura Patrols

[redacted] there was a Soviet Kommandatura in MEININGEN and one at the railroad station in ERFURT. [redacted] Kommandatura patrols in both cities. These patrols were usually composed of one officer armed with a pistol and of two EM armed with SMG's. [redacted]

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## 8. Protection of Classified Documents

[redacted] In [redacted] CO's office, there was a metal cabinet which contained password lists and [redacted] other classified documents. Officers [redacted] had access to this cabinet.

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## 9. Wearing of Civilian Clothes

[redacted] in the vicinity of KAMYSHLOV (5650N-6240E) [redacted] sergeants were allowed to go on pass in civilian clothes. However, in East Germany no one [redacted] ever wore civilian clothes [redacted]

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## D. PROPAGANDA

### 1. Foreign Broadcasts

Once in 1954 [redacted] heard a Voice of America broadcast about a certain Vassily TERKI over the radio. The broadcast explained that under the Soviet regime gruel (kasha) had deteriorated and had been watered down. [redacted] all agreed that indeed, Soviet Kasha was inferior in quality to pre-Soviet Kasha. [redacted]

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Soldiers were not allowed to listen to Western broadcasts. Following an incident, where some soldier [redacted] inadvertently turned on a Voice of America broadcast in Russian and then walked away, the radio was placed in the company medic's room under the latter's supervision. 10 25X1

## 2. Reactions to Political Training

Soldiers [redacted] had four hours a week of political training. [redacted] they did not like political training and lectures and even preferred tactical training, close-order drill and weapons instruction or firing practice to any political training. Some soldiers would even hide in the latrine [redacted] so as to miss political training sessions. 25X1

[redacted] soldiers dodged political training assemblies to such an extent that in order to force them to attend, the political officer resorted to calling an alert [redacted] After the soldiers had fallen out for the alert they were immediately marched off to Political Training class. 25X1

## 3. Political Training Methods

At these training meetings, the political officer would usually read to the soldiers out of a book or a newspapers for about one hour. The themes were usually the following: History of the 1918-21 Civil War in Russia, Life in the USSR (Good) versus life in the USA (Bad); Good discipline in the Soviet Army versus poor discipline in the US Army (where, [redacted] American officers had to literally beat American soldiers into subordination); American preparations and armament for war; the USSR surrounded by capitalist bases; and spies sent by capitalistic countries into the USSR. 25X1 Following the officer's presentation of the above subjects, soldiers with the aid of pamphlets had to write in their notebooks what they remembered about the various themes. Then they would have to summarize the main points in their own words. In addition to these four hours of political training, they had two lectures a week some time during the evening. These lectures were usually based on articles from three Soviet newspapers, Sovetskaya Armiya, Pravda, and Komsomolskaya Pravda. This would be followed by discussion or question-and-answer periods. 25X1

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